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MEDIA ADVISORY
INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES IN EGYPT AROUND OBAMA JUNE 4 SPEECH

For Immediate Release: May 28, 2009

Contact: egyptinfo@clsdc.com, (202) 667-3402

To: Reporters Planning to Cover President Obama's June 4th Speech in Egypt

From: Egyptian Press and Information Office, Washington, D.C.

Dear Reporters and Editors,

It is with great pleasure that Egypt looks forward to hosting President Barack Obama for his much anticipated speech to the Muslim world on June 4.

In order to provide greater context to the President's speech, we would like to offer you a variety of interview opportunities with unique non-government voices. Please see below for a list of available interview subjects and contact information.

As a reminder, please note that **all foreign press covering the June 4 speech needs to be credentialed**. For accreditation forms and more information, please contact us at egyptinfo@clsdc.com, egyprinfo@gmail.com or (202) 667-3402.

Thank you,
Egyptian Press and Information Office

Available for Media Interviews around President Obama's Speech in Cairo

H.E. Sheikh Muhammad Sayyid Tantawy, Grand Sheikh of al-Azhar

Sheikh al-Azhar Muhammad Sayyid Tantawy is the Grand Imam of al-Azhar Mosque and the Grand Sheikh of al-Azhar University in Cairo. He is widely considered to be one of the most important religious figures in the Muslim world.

Sheikh al-Azhar is known as a moderate and repeatedly condemns terrorism, having been outspoken about its' disparity with Islamic teachings. He has said: "Terrorists who are slaughtering innocent people like animals are out of Islam. Ulema (clerics) and Mashaikh (religious leaders) should try to educate them and if they do not shun their activities, then they must wage jihad against them."

As the religious guide of nearly one billion Sunni Muslims, Sheikh al-Azhar will be a critical voice in continuing the open dialogue between Muslims and the U.S. that President Obama will begin on June 4.

To schedule an interview with this person, please contact Karim Haggag at karimhaggag@gmail.com or (202) 667-3402. If after May 30, please call 01120106689890. Please note that the interview will be set up through a translator.

H.E. Sheikh Ali Gomaa, Grand Mufti of Egypt

H.E. Sheikh Ali Gomaa was appointed Grand Mufti of Egypt in 2003. Since taking the position he has revolutionized the process of issuing fatwas in Egypt, transforming Dar al-Ifta, the agency charged with issuing religious edicts, to a modern institution with a council and a system of checks and balances. The *New Yorker* has described Sheikh Ali Gomaa as "a highly promoted champion of moderate Islam."

Before his appointment as Grand Mufti of Egypt, Sheikh Ali Gomaa was Professor of Juristic Methodologies at al-Azhar University.

He will be able to comment on President Obama's speech with a unique outlook on the state of Islam today, in his role as a figurehead of moderation and peaceful coexistence with the West.

To schedule an interview with this person, please contact Karim Haggag at karimhaggag@gmail.com or (202) 667-3402. If after May 30, please call 01120106689890. Please note that the interview will be set up through a translator.

His Holiness Pope Shenouda III, leader of the Coptic Orthodox Church

His Holiness was born Nazeer Gayed on August 3, 1923, to a Christian family in Egypt. Since 1971, he has served as the 117th Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark.

Pope Shenouda is a pious man who practices solitude, having spent six years living as a hermit, and to this day spending about three days per week in a monastery, despite his busy schedule. He is the author of 101 books, many of which have been translated, and has presided over an expansion of the Coptic Church worldwide, founding the first Coptic churches in Brazil and Bolivia, in addition to other countries.

He offers a unique perspective on religious diversity in the Middle East and the relationship between Muslims and Christians, as Egypt is home to the largest Christian community in the region.

To schedule an interview with this person, please contact Karim Haggag at karimhaggag@gmail.com or (202) 667-3402. If after May 30, please call 01120106689890.

Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghali, former Secretary-General of the UN

Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghali served as the sixth UN Secretary-General from 1992 to 1997. He now serves as the speaker of the Egyptian National Council on Human Rights.

As one of Egypt's most prominent global leaders, Dr. Boutros Ghali can speak about the intersection of the Muslim world and the West on the international stage, as well as comment on multi-lateral efforts to bring peace in the Middle East. His current post also affords him a first hand view of ongoing human rights developments in Egypt.

To schedule an interview with this person, please contact Karim Haggag at karimhaggag@gmail.com or (202) 667-3402. If after May 30, please call 01120106689890.

Dr. Abdel Monem Said Aly, director of al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies

Dr. Aly has led Cairo's al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies since 1994 and has worked in various positions at the Center for more than three decades. He has held research fellowships at the Brookings Institution, Harvard University, and is currently a Senior Fellow in the Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis University.

His works have been published in Arabic and English. Most recently, his article "Iran's New Target: Egypt" was published in the *Wall Street Journal* in April 2009. His other works include books, articles and chapters in the world systems, Arab relations with the regional and global orders, European integration, the Arab Israeli conflict, Middle East regional security, Egypt's political system and national security and arms control policies.

As the founder of the International Alliance for Arab-Israeli Peace and the Egyptian Peace Movement and one of Egypt's preeminent scholars, Dr. Aly offers insightful commentary about ongoing conflicts in the Middle East.

To schedule an interview with this person, please contact them directly at abdelmonemsaidaly@gmail.com or 011 20 123232099.

Ms. Mona Zulficar, Vice Chair of the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee and member, Egyptian National Council for Human Rights

Mona Zulficar is a lawyer with a longstanding commitment to community activism, serving as an advocate for human rights and women's rights in Egypt and internationally. She is the Vice Chair of the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee and she is also a member of the National Council for Human Rights in Egypt.

Ms. Zulficar has been involved in a number of successful campaigns to foster human rights in Egypt, including legislation to establish a new marriage contract and afford women equal rights to divorce, guaranteeing equal rights under the nationality law, establishing family-friendly courts, banning female genital mutilation, and empowering the NGO community.

Ms. Zulficar offers a unique perspective on the situation of women in the Muslim world today, and challenges to human rights advancements in the Middle East.

To schedule an interview with this person, please contact them directly at msz@shalakany.com or 011.20.227399393.

Dr. Heba Handoussa, Managing Director of the Economic Research Forum for the Arab countries, Iran and Turkey for the International Labour Organization's World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization

Professor Handoussa is an economist by training and one of the Middle East's pre-eminent experts on numerous development issues, such as structural adjustment, industrial policy and foreign aid, institutional reform and comparative development models. She is also a member of the Shura Council, Egypt's Upper House of Parliament.

Professor Handoussa taught at the American University in Cairo and was subsequently appointed as Vice Provost. She has served as an advisor to the Egyptian government and consultant to the World Bank. In 2000 she was elected member of the Board of the

Central Bank of Egypt. She is also the lead author of the Human Development Report on Egypt put out by the UNDP.

Dr. Handoussa will offer interesting commentary on the impact of globalization in bringing together the Muslim and Western worlds, especially in the wake of the global recession.

To schedule an interview with this person, please email egyptinfo@clsdc.com or egyprinfo@gmail.com or call (202) 667-3402.

Dr. Hoda Rashad, Director of the Social Research Center of the American University in Cairo

Dr Rashad is Director of the Social Research Center of the American University in Cairo and a member of the Shura Council, Egypt's Upper House of Parliament. She has also served on the World Health Organization's Commission on Social Determinants of Health.

In her role as a member of Egypt's National Council for Women, Dr. Rashad works on the empowerment of women in education, health, the environment and culture. She offers her extensive experience as a sociologist and scholar of the Middle East and Egypt.

To schedule an interview with this person, please email egyptinfo@clsdc.com or egyprinfo@gmail.com or call (202) 667-3402.

Moez Massoud

Moez Masoud is a young, dynamic host of television and radio shows about Islam in both English and Arabic. Currently, Masoud appears live and weekly on the talk-show, "90 Minutes," which broadcasts across the Middle East.

Millions of viewers in the Arab world tuned in to watch Masoud host his first Arabic show, "Al-Tareeq Al-Sah" (The Right Way) in late 2007. He filmed on location in Cairo, Jeddah, Istanbul, London and Madinah, an unprecedented feat for a religious TV program. The series tackled emotional, and often shunned youth-related issues like drugs, alcohol, homosexuality and gender relations.

Masoud is a truly unique figure – a young, religious leader who is passionate about his religion but realistic about today's youth. In a piece that aired in May 2009, the U.S. radio show *All Things Considered* called Masoud "an unlikely televangelist" and discussed the moderate brand of Islam that he preaches. As the voice of a younger generation of Muslims, he will be able to offer a particularly interesting perspective on President Obama's speech.

To schedule an interview with this person, please email egyptinfo@clsdc.com or egyprinfo@gmail.com or call (202) 667-3402.

Dr. Ismail Serageldin, Director, Library of Alexandria

Dr. Ismail Serageldin is the director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA), the Library of Alexandria. He also chairs the Boards of Directors for each of the BA's affiliated research institutes and museums and is a Distinguished Professor at Wageningen University in the Netherlands.

He has published over 50 books and monographs and over 200 papers on a variety of topics including biotechnology, rural development, sustainability, and the value of science to society. Dr. Serageldin holds a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from Cairo University and Master's degree and a PhD from Harvard University and has received 22 honorary doctorates.

As a true academic, bibliophile and an Egyptian who maintains a connection to the Western world, Serageldin offers a unique perspective on the culture of the Muslim world and its future relationship with the U.S.

To schedule an interview with this person, please email egyptinfo@clsdc.com or egyprinfo@gmail.com or call (202) 667-3402.

**Ambassador Abdel Raouf El Reedy, former Egyptian Ambassador to the U.S.,
Chairman of the Egyptian Council on Foreign Affairs**

Ambassador El Reedy is the co-founder and member of the board of the Egyptian Council on Foreign Affairs. He also serves as the chairman of the board of the Mubarak Public Library in Cairo.

In his role at the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs, El Reedy aims to promote a deep and objective understanding of all external affairs, regional as well as international, in order to enhance Egyptian strategic, economic, and political national interests.

For eight years (1984-1992), El Reedy was Egypt's ambassador to the U.S. He has held numerous other diplomatic posts, including as Egypt's Permanent Representative at the United Nations in Geneva, the Arab League Secretariat, and as ambassador to Pakistan.

Ambassador El Reedy is available to lend his comments on Egypt's active role in regional and international issues as a strategic ally of the U.S.

To schedule an interview with this person, please contact them directly at 01120101007308.

**Ambassador Nabil Fahmy, former Egyptian Ambassador to the U.S., Dean of the
School for Public Policy at the American University in Cairo**

Ambassador Nabil Fahmy, former Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United States from 1999-2008, is a career diplomat who has played an active role in the numerous efforts to bring peace to the Middle East. He is also internationally recognized for his expertise in the field of disarmament and international security.

Prior to his appointment in the U.S., Ambassador Fahmy was Egypt's Ambassador to Japan and a Political Advisor to the Foreign Minister. He also served as a Senior Disarmament Official, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was a member of the Egyptian Mission to the United Nations (Disarmament and Political Affairs) in Geneva and New York. Fahmy was Chairman of the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board of Disarmament Matters in 2001.

Having served nearly ten years as Egypt's top diplomat in the U.S., Ambassador Fahmy has extensive experience in liaising between one of the Middle East's superpowers and the U.S. Administration. He would be able to offer his unique insights on the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead for the relationship.

To schedule an interview with this person, please contact them directly at 01120109998850 or nfdpl@usa.net.

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